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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP
INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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PAGES

SUPPLEMENT

SUBJECT Visit to Spain of Two Members of the
POUM; Activities of the CNT

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ORIGIN

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1. A CNT member told source that on 20 December 1946, two representatives of the POUM (Partit Obrer d'Unificacio Marxista), returned to France after having spent several days in Madrid and Barcelona, conferring first with Joaquin Maurin* and later with Generals Kindelan and Aranda and with the Genetistas Luque and Cipriano Mera. One of these emissaries reportedly was the editor of the POUM organ, La Batalla, published in Paris.

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2. [redacted] these emissaries of the POUM came to Spain at the instigation of certain British officials who are most anxious to learn the real position of the CNT. They reportedly conferred with Luque in his capacity as a member of the National Committee of the CNT.

3. One of the Genetistas told the POUM emissaries that the line to be taken by the CNT would not be set until the Federacion Anarquista Iberica decided that the moment had arrived for the CNT to resume action. He added that the FAI would crush any tendency toward reformism in the CNT.

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4. [redacted] that the reorganization of CNT terrorist sections had begun and that CNT squads had taken over control of guerrilla groups in the zones of Galicia, Asturias and Catalonia. He added that they had thirty thousand rifles and a million cartridges at their disposal and that sabotage experts had been placed in various factories.

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Comment: Joaquin Maurin, former Secretary General of the POUM, was released from prison in the latter part of 1946. Reportedly, he was a professor in Spain before the Civil War and was elected Deputy to the Cortes from Barcelona in the elections of 16 February 1936. The following information concerning Maurin, the POUM and the CNT, from The Spanish Labyrinth, by Gerald Brenan, may be of interest: About 1921, Maurin went to Moscow and joined the Communist Party. Without authority, he federated the CNT to the Third International. This action was later repudiated in Spain. In 1931, Maurin assisted in the forming of the Trotskyist Izquierda Comunista, which was formed by a group that seceded from the official Communist Party, taking most of the Catalan Communists with it. This party split in 1933 on the question of cooperating with the Socialists. It reunited in 1936 in the POUM which syndicated with the CNT, the UGT in Catalonia being too reformist in character.

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